

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-07

FRB-03 INR-07 NSAE-00 CIEP-01 SP-02 STR-04 TRSE-00

LAB-04 SIL-01 SAM-01 OMB-01 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 L-03

NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-06 SAJ-01 NEA-10 AF-08

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R 201705Z JUL 76

FM AMEMBASSY BONN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0548

INFO USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 BONN 12240

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR EEC GW

SUBJECT: FRG STRIKES UPBEAT NOTE ON EC

REF: BONN 11996

SUMMARY. THE NEED TO PROJECT AN IMAGE OF PROGRESS IN EUROPEAN RELATIONS OCCASIONED BY THE UPCOMING FEDERAL ELECTIONS HAS PROMPTED THE GERMAN LEADERSHIP TO ACCENTUATE THE POSITIVE IN ITS STATEMENTS ON EUROPEAN POLICY AND THE EC IN THE PAST FEW WEEKS. END SUMMARY.

1. THE OPENING GUN IN THE GOVERNMENT'S SALVO WAS FIRED
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BY FOREIGN MINISTER GENSCHER ON JULY 1 IN A SPEECH TO

THE GERMAN FOREIGN POLICY ASSOCIATION.

GENSCHER CLAIMED THAT ECONOMIC INTEGRATION WILL NOT RESULT IN POLITICAL UNITY. FOR THIS REASON THE EC, IN ORDER TO BECOME A POLITICAL COMMUNITY, IS DEVELOPING A COMMON FOREIGN POLICY. THE TWO AVENUES OF THIS EFFORT ARE EUROPEAN POLITICAL COOPERATION (EPC) AND THE WORK OF THE EC APPARATUS IN BRUSSELS.

2. EPC. GENSCHER STATED THAT EPC WAS BORN IN 1973 AT THE TIME OF THE OIL EMBARGO, WHICH DEMONSTRATED TO THE INDIVIDUAL EUROPEAN NATIONS THEIR WEAKNESS ON THE WORLD SCENE. ONE BASIC INGREDIENT IN EPC IS A CLOSE LINK WITH THE UNITED STATES. THE MAIN ACHIEVEMENTS OF THE EPC HAVE BEEN THE COMMON STANCE OF THE NINE DURING CSCE AND A "JOINT BASIC CONCEPTION" OF POLICY TOWARD THE MIDDLE EAST AND SOUTHERN AFRICA.

3. GENSCHER ALSO CITED THE LOME CONVENTION AS AN EXAMPLE OF POLITICAL COOPERATION.

4. EC BRUSSELS. GENSCHER CLAIMED THAT THE EC APPARATUS IN BRUSSELS IS ACTIVE IN THE MAINTENANCE AND STRENGTHENING OF DEMOCRACY IN EUROPE. AS AN EXAMPLE HE CITED THE EC'S RESPONSE TO GREECE'S APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP. AS AN EXAMPLE OF THINGS TO DO, GENSCHER POINTED TO THE NEED TO STRENGTHEN THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE IN STRASBOURG. GENSCHER CAPPED HIS SPEECH WITH A WARNING AGAINST "MODISH DOUBT" ON THE FUTURE OF EUROPE.

5. CHANCELLOR SCHMIDT CONTRIBUTED TO THIS CAMPAIGN DURING A BACKGROUND BRIEFING ON JULY 12 AT THE BRUSSELS HILTON. DURING THIS BRIEFING SCHMIDT DECLARED THAT THE EC IS THE GREATEST ECONOMIC ACHIEVEMENT OF THE MODERN WORLD. HE ASKED THE JOURNALISTS PRESENT TO JOIN HIM IN PUBLICIZING THIS FACT.

6. SCHMIDT DECLARED THAT THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE EC MUST PROCEED STEP-BY-STEP. HE ACIDLY REMARKED THAT THE ACHIEVEMENTS OF THE EC CANNOT BE MEASURED BY THE ILLUSIONS OF CDU DREAMERS SUCH AS HALLSTEIN.
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7. GENSCHER RETURNED TO THE FORE IN AN INTERVIEW ON JULY 18 UPON HIS RETURN FROM THE US, WHEN HE TOOK PAINS TO WRAP THE US INTO THE CLOAK OF SUPPORT FOR THE CONCEPT OF A UNITED EUROPE.

8. GENSCHER ALSO SAID THE EUROPEAN MOVEMENT IS WORKING, CITING AS EXAMPLES:

-- THE JULY 12-13 MEETING OF THE EUROPEAN COUNCIL
WAS A SUCCESS.

-- DIRECT ELECTIONS TO THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT WILL
BE HELD ON SCHEDULE IN 1978.

-- POLITICAL INTEGRATION IS TAKING PLACE AS,
FOR EXAMPLE, IN THE CASE OF POLITICAL PARTIES, WHICH
ARE FORMING ALLIANCES ON THE EUROPEAN LEVEL.

9. EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT. GENSCHER WAS CAREFUL TO SAY

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 02 OF 02 BONN 12240

THAT THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT WILL ASSUME COMPETENCIES GRADUALLY. AS REPORTED REFTTEL, FRG INTENDS TO DOWNPLAY THE POSSIBLE POWER OF PARLIAMENT UNTIL AFTER DIRECT ELECTIONS ARE RATIFIED IN OTHER EUROPEAN COUNTRIES. HOWEVER, GENSCHER WAS NOT ABLE TO CONTAIN COMPLETELY HIS ENTHUSIASM AND REITERATED HIS PROPOSAL OF PREPARATION OF A EUROPEAN CONSTITUTION BY THE PARLIAMENT. WHEN ASKED WHO WOULD REPRESENT THE FDP IN THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT, TO MATCH WILLY BRANDT OF THE SPD AND FRANZ JOSEF STRAUSS OF THE CSU, GENSCHER REPLIED: BANGEMANN. (WHILE BANGEMANN IS AN IMPORTANT CONFIDENTIAL

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FDP POLITICIAN, HIS STATURE DOES NOT COME CLOSE TO THAT OF BRANDT OR STRAUSS.)

10. DIRECTORATE. GENSCHER DECLARED FORTHRIGHT OPPOSITION TO THE CONCEPTION OF A EUROPEAN DIRECTORATE. HE DEFENDED CLOSE TIES BETWEEN THE FRG AND FRANCE ON THE ONE HAND AND THE FRG AND THE UK ON THE OTHER, CLAIMING THAT THESE TIES CONTRIBUTE TO THE EUROPEAN MOVEMENT BY HELPING TO SOLVE PROBLEMS IN EUROPE.

11. EC-CEMA. GENSCHER CITED TALKS BETWEEN THE EC AND CEMA AS EVIDENCE OF INCREASING ACCEPTANCE BY EASTERN EUROPE OF THE POLITICAL REALITY OF THE EC.

12. COMMENT: WE ARE TOLD THAT SCHMIDT AND GENSCHER HAD DECIDED THAT THE PESSIMISM WHICH FOLLOWED THE APRIL MEETING OF THE EUROPEAN COUNCIL IN LUXEMBOURG HAD BEEN EXCESSIVE. ACHIEVEMENT OF AGREEMENT ON DIRECT ELECTIONS IN 1978 -- A PRIME FRG GOAL -- HAS ALLOWED THEM TO STRIKE A MORE OPTIMISTIC NOTE. THIS OPTIMISM PERMITS THE SPD/FDP COALITION TO PRESENT A MORE POSITIVE PICTURE OF ACHIEVEMENT IN ITS EUROPEAN POLICY -- AN OPPORTUNITY WHICH SCHMIDT AND GENSCHER WILL EXPLOIT.
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